

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
EURE-00 /060 W
-----073596 261903Z /43

P R 261614Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0951
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T BONN 14005

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MILI, GW
SUBJECT: NATO AWACS: SECDEF LETTER TO MOD LEBER

REFS: (A) STATE 194484 DTG 162151Z AUG 77
(B) BONN 13458 DTG 171852Z AUG 77

1. DURING A 25 AUGUST TALK WITH FMOD OFFICER (COL. VON SANDRART) ON SEVERAL OTHER QUESTIONS, EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER LEBER WAS BACK FROM VACATION AND IF SUBJECT LETTER FROM SECDEF (REFTELS) SUGGESTING BILATERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AWACS HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION. VON SANDRART COULD NOT SAY WHAT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THE LETTER OR WHETHER LEBER HAD YET SEEN IT, BUT HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION AND BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY.

2. VON SANDRART MENTIONED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ONE OR MORE USG APPROACHES TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ASKING WHEN THE GERMANS FELT THE BILATERAL EXCHANGE SUGGESTED BY SECDEF WOULD TAKE PLACE. VON SANDRART SEEMED ANNOYED OVER THIS.

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3. EMBOFF SAID HE ASSUMED THAT ANY SUCH APPROACHES WERE SIMPLY INFORMAL REQUESTS FOR THE FMOD'S BEST GUESS AS TO WHEN THE BILATERAL MIGHT TAKE PLACE. THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE USEFUL IN PLANNING THE DATE OF THE FIRST FINANCIAL EXPERTS MEETING ON AWACS AT NATO, SINCE THIS EXPERTS MEETING SHOULD LOGICALLY COME AFTER A

BILATERAL, REGARDLESS OF WHEN A BILATERAL WERE HELD. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO AGITATE FOR A RESPONSE TO SECDEF'S LETTER OR FOR A BILATERAL AT A PARTICULAR POINT IN TIME. VON SANDRART LISTENED POLITELY BUT DID NOT APPEAR COMPLETELY CONVINCED.

4. COMMENT: VON SANDRART'S REACTION IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF FMOD SENSITIVITY TO ANYTHING WHICH IT PERCEIVES AS US PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY DECISION ON AWACS. GIVEN THE KNOWN ATTITUDE OF THE GERMANS IN THIS REGARD, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT, UNTIL LEBER HAS ANSWERED SECDEF'S LETTER, ANY APPROACHES TO FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BILATERAL COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND MIGHT BEST BE AVOIDED.

5. FOR THE SAME REASON, WE SUGGEST THAT CONTACT WITH THE GERMANS TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE E-3A DEMONSTRATION VISIT TO THE FRG SHOULD NOT BE INITIATED UNTIL LEBER HAS ANSWERED SECDEF'S LETTER. (EUCOM REQUESTED JCS AND HQ USAF AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE LOW-KEY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NECESSARY NATO AND FRG AGENCIES BY USCINCEUR MESSAGE ECJ5 23569 DTG 221220Z AUG 77.) WHILE THE TWO MATTERS ARE ARGUABLY SEPARATE, THE FRG HAS NOT YET TOLD US WHEN IT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE DEMONSTRATION VISIT. IT MIGHT PERCEIVE APPROACHES AIMED AT PINNING DOWN SUCH DETAILS AS WHERE IN BONN
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THE TV MONITORS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION ARE TO BE LOCATED (DISCUSSED ALSO IN HQ USAF MESSAGE 151740Z AUG 77) AS STILL ANOTHER FORM OF INDIRECT PRESSURE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Remarks:
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